

“That Sabbath in the Grainfields ~ Six Ways Jesus Upheld the Sabbath”

Handout/Study Sheet: a side-by-side comparison of the account in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, with additional notes.

Matthew 12:1-8	Mark 2:23-28	Luke 6:1-5
1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.	23 Now it happened that He went through the grainfields on the Sabbath; and as they went His disciples began to pluck the heads of grain.	1 Now it happened on the second Sabbath after the first that He went through the grainfields. And His disciples plucked the heads of grain and ate them, rubbing them in their hands.
2 And when the Pharisees saw <i>it</i> , they said to Him, “Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!”	24 And the Pharisees <u>said</u> to Him, “Look, why do they do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” “said” = “elegen” = kept on speaking	2 And some of the Pharisees said to them, “Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?”
3 But He said to them, “ Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him:	25 But He said to them, “ Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry, he and those with him:	3 But Jesus answering them said, “ Have you not even read this, what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him;
4 “ how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? POINT 1: Jesus justified the conduct of His disciples and upheld the Sabbath by referring to God’s written word in the Prophets and in the Law.	26 “ how he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the showbread, which is not lawful to eat except for the priests, and also gave some to those who were with him?” See 1 Sam. 21:1-6 and Lev. 24:5-6	4 “ how he went into the house of God, took and ate the showbread, and also gave some to those who were with him, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat?”
5 “ Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?	POINT 2: Jesus continued upholding the Sabbath by referring to God’s written word in the Law.	See Num. 8:11, 24; Num. 28:9-10; and Lev. 1 – Priests worked each Sabbath
6 “ But I say to you that in this place there is <i>One</i> greater than the temple.	POINT 3: Jesus upheld the Sabbath by referencing prophesies of Himself.	See 2 Chron. 6:18; Isa. 66:1 Mal. 3:1; Heb. 3:3
7 “ But if you had known what <i>this</i> means, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless.	POINT 4: Jesus upheld the Sabbath by quoting Scripture stating the purpose for it. In doing so He again defends the conduct of His disciples.	See Hos. 6:6
	27 And He said to them, “ The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.	POINT 5: Jesus upheld the Sabbath by reminding them that the Sabbath was made—by Him—for man’s benefit. Gen. 2:2-3; 20:11; Ex. 31:17; John 1:3
8 “ For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.” POINT 6: Jesus upheld the Sabbath by asserting His Lordship over it.	28 “ Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath. ” He is the owner and protector of the Sabbath. He decides how to keep it.	5 And He said to them, “ The Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath. ”

On that Sabbath in the grainfield Jesus defended His disciples and upheld the Sabbath, which God, through Him had made for the benefit man. The lessons He taught still guide His disciples today and uphold the sanctity of the Sabbath for all believers.